

## Hamilton, Peter

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**From:** Michele Lew [Michele.Lew@aaci.org]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 16, 2009 12:13 PM  
**To:** Hamilton, Peter  
**Subject:** proposed cardroom charitable contribution workplan

Dear Peter,

Thanks for speaking with me on the phone just now. Regarding the proposed cardroom charitable contribution workplan, we at AACI want to see the charitable contributions allocated to direct services for problem gamblers as efficiently as possible.

As you might know, Asian Americans are more than three times as likely as Caucasians to suffer from problem gambling, and the San Jose cardroom clientele is predominantly Asian. With our 50+ counselors who specialize in mental health and addiction treatment, AACI is especially well-suited to providing problem gambling services. We recently co-hosted a problem gambling summit in Oakland, and we are hosting a problem gambling workshop later this month at AACI that Zulma Maciel will be attending.

Rather than city staff have to get up to speed on problem gambling issues (an uncompensated, inefficient workload for the city), we would like to see one of the following options:

- a) A one-year pilot where AACI contracts directly with the cardrooms to develop problem gambling services that are consistent with the Healthy Neighborhoods Strategic Work Plan. AACI could provide regular reports to the Healthy Neighborhood Leadership Committee and hire an external evaluator to monitor our progress.
- b) The cardrooms contract directly with a non-profit agency (AACI or another nonprofit with expertise in problem gambling issues) to develop an allocation plan that focuses on culturally competent treatment for problem gambling.

We look forward to hearing Vice Mayor Chirco's thoughts on these options. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions/concerns. Thanks again!

Sincerely,  
Michele

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